industrial belts have been opened and forms/procedures have been reviewed & simplified so as to delegate enhanced power on lower functionaries to settle the claims. Massive computerisation programme has also been launched for streamlining/automising settlement of the claims. The work relating to settlement of claims is also being regularly monitored through Central Action Plan.

Improvement In the Working of ESI Scheme

2218. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the steps being taken to improve the working of ESI Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA): The ESI Scheme provides for payment of cash benefits in the contingencies of sickness, maternity and employment injury. The scheme also provides for medical care and treatment of the insured persons and their families in kind. The work relating to administration of cash benefits is being directly administered by the ESIC. The process of disbursement of cash benefits among the insured persons is generally satisfactory. However, there have been some complaints in administration of ESI medical care. Under the ESI Act the responsibility for administration of medical care vests in the State Governments except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is administered by the ESIC direct. Therefore, the complaints about ESI medical care as and when received are forwarded to the concerned State Govenment for taking appropriate remedical action. However, the ESIC sees to it that the insured persons do get proper medical care and treatment from the ESI hospitals/dispensaries. For this purpose the Corporation has prescribed norms/guide lines for staffing and equipping of hospitals/dispensaries. The Corporation also meets 7/8th expenditure incurred on medi/ cal care by the State Govts. Recently the Corporation has increased the ceiling on ESI medical care from Rs. *4W-* to Rs. 500/- with effect from 1.4.97.

The Corporation has also planned to provide all basic essential equipments to ESI dispensaries all over India as one time measure. Its cost will be met outside the ceiling in usual ratio. The ESI Corporation has planned to upgrade and modernise the ESI Hospitals by providing facilities of ultrasonography, auto analyser, resuscitation equipments, Cardiac monitor, Pulse-Cymeter, dental and blood bank units etc. In order to ensure propoer functioning of medical equipments the Corporation has advised the State Governments to enter into Annual Maintenance Contract with reputed organisations or with the supplier of the equipments. Four Occupational Diseases Centres *i.e.* one each at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Chennai have been set up for providing specialised treatment to IPs suffering from Occupational Diseases. The cost of Occupational Diseases Centres will be fully met by the ESIC. The Corporation has also decided to re-im-burse full cost for the insured persons whose case is referred to renowned medi-ca"l institutions for Super Speciality Treatment. In order to have better co-ordination and monitoring of the performance of the Regions a system of Nodal Officers has been introduced by the ESIC.

Non-Payment of Wages to the Workers

2219. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-payment of wages to the workers in a number of Public Sector Undertakings in the country; and

(b) if so, the details and what steps are being taken to see the workers get their wages regularly?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTYA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware about non-payment of wages in some of the PSUs. Most of the PSUs which have defaulted